

Message Text

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SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

1. FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS KETTANEH TOUCHED ON A NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES IN COURSE OF A GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICER ON JULY 21. ACCORDING TO KETTANEH IRAQ, AS PART OF A MAJOR EFFORT TO EXPAND ITS ROLE IN NON-ALIGNED MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS, HAS BEEN SHOWING INCREASING WILLINGNESS TO PAY SOME DEFERENCE TO THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE MORE MODERATE NON-ALIGNED STATES. MOREOVER, IRAQ APPARENTLY DOES NOT PLAN TO USE COLOMBO AS A FORUM TO ASSERT ITS RADICAL BAATHI CREDENTIALS BY WORKING FOR THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNGA OR, IN FACT, TO TAKE EXTREME POSITIONS ON ANY OTHER ISSUES CONNECTED WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OR WESTERN IMPERIALISM. IN BRIEF, IRAQ DOES NOT PLAN TO "GET OUT IN FRONT" OF OTHER ARABS AT COLOMBO.

2. MIDDLE EAST--DESPITE THE LACK OF RECENT PROGRESS TOWARDS A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, ACCORDING TO KETTANEH, THE LANGUAGE ADOPTED BY THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE CONCERNING THE EXPULSION/SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNGA SHOULD BE MORE MODERATE OR AT LEAST LESS EXPLICIT THAN THAT WHICH EMERGED FROM THE LIMA CONFERENCE.

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THE ARAB NATIONS WOULD PREFER TO PRESENT A UNITED FRONT AND WILL,

THEREFORE, SEARCH FOR THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR BEFORE THEY ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ON THIS ISSUE AT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT. KETTANEH, WHO EARLIER (BAGHDAD 376) CHARACTERIZED THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL AS A DEAD ISSUE, DOES NOT EXPECT THE GOI TO LOBBY FOR A RADICAL ARAB POSITION. COMMENT: AS FAR AS IRAQ IS CONCERNED, THE CONSENSUS APPROACH AMONG THE ARAB STATES HAS THE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF DEEMPHASIZING SYRIA'S ALLOTTED ROLE AS DRAFTER OF THE POSITION PAPERS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE ISSUES. IT SHOULD ALSO CONCILIATE THE OTHER ASIAN AND AFRICAN NATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR SRI LANKA, WHICH HAS, WE UNDERSTAND, THROUGH THE SRI LANKAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE ALGIERS CONFERENCE, ADAMENTLY OPPOSED THE RADICAL ARAB POSITIONS. KETTANEH DID, HOWEVER, POINT OUT THAT ISRAELI ACTIONS AT ENTEBBE MAY MOVE AFRICAN NATIONS TOWARDS A STRONGER ANTI-ISRAELI POSITION.

3. SAHARA--THE DETERMINATION TO ADOPT A COMMON ARAB POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUE LEAVES THE SAHARA PROBLEM AS THE MOST DEVISIVE CONFLICT AMONG THE ARAB STATES, ACCORDING TO KETTANEH. WHILE THE ALGIERS FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ENDORSED THE ALGERIAN POSITION, A REPETITION OF THE ALGERIAN SUCCESS IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED AT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT.

4. PUERTO RICO AND KOREA--KETTANEH ADMITTED THAT THE USG HAD A STRONG OPINION ON PUERTO RICO, BUT SAID THAT THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT ALGIERS ON BOTH PUERTO RICO AND KOREA ARE NOW PART OF THE LITURGY OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. ALTHOUGH IRAQ MAINTAINS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND CUBA, KETTANEH CLAIMS THAT THE GOI IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THESE ISSUES AND DOES NOT EXPECT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS CONFLICT AT COLOMBO. IN KETTANEH'S OPINION A MORE BALANCED VIEW OF THE KOREAN ITEM WAS REFLECTED AT THE ALGIERS CONFERENCE. AT BEST, THE UNITED STATES CAN EXPECT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT TO REAFFIRM THE POSITIONS ADOPTED AT ALGIERS SINCE A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBER STATES DO NOT FEEL STRONGLY ENOUGH ON THESE ISSUES TO USE UP THEIR POLITICAL CAPITAL FIGHTING CUBA AND NORTH KOREA. A SRI LANKAN OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US THAT N.KOREA WILL, IN AN ATTEMPT TO BE ELECTED TO THE NACC, SEND THE LARGEST DELEGATION TO THE COLOMBO SUMMIT.

5. FUTURE CONFERENCES--KETTANEH SAID IRAQ IS NOW REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THE SEVENTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT WILL BE HELD IN BAGHDAD
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IN 1982. THE IMPORTANCE OF HOSTING THE 1978 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING HAS THEREFORE DIMINISHED AND IRAQ HAS STOPPED LIBBYING FOR THE 1978 MEETING. IN THE MEANTIME, IRAQ WOULD LIKE TO BE ELECTED TO THE NACC. KETTANEH DECLINED COMMENT ON IRAQ'S PROSPECTS, BUT DID INDICATE THAT THE PROPOSALS TO EXPAND THE NACC'S MEMBERSHIP TO TWENTY-ONE OR TWENTY-THREE ARE OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATED.

6. SECRETARIAT--IRAQ'S PROPOSAL TO CREATE A PERMANENT SECRE-

TARIAT FOR THE NACC AROUSED SUSPICIONS THAT BAGHDAD HOPED TO BE SELECTED AS THE SITE FOR THIS NEW OFFICE. KETTANEH PLAYED THIS DOWN AND SAID THAT IRAQ NOW SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF AN OFFICE, TENTATIVELY SLATED FOR NEW YORK, TO PROVIDE "MINIMUM ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT" FOR THE NACC. THE "MINIMUM ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT" WOULD BE PROVIDED BY DETAILING OFFICIALS FROM THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. HE ALSO SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS CIRCULATED A DRAFT PROPOSAL REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF A SIMILAR ORGAM ZATION ALTHOUGH THE YUGOSLAVS DID NOT USE THE WORD "ADMINISTRATIVE".

7. COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE--THE RECENT NON-ALIGNED COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE IN DELHI HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION IN IRAQ. KETTANEH INDICATED THAT THE GOI CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR ANY NON-ALIGNED ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE WIRE-SERVICE MONOPOLIES. KETTANEH EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE LDC'S NEED BETTER PRESS COVERAGE, BUT HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE DONE BY IMPOSING CENSORSHIP ON WESTERN NEWS MEDIA AS A MEANS OF SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES. THE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE NON-ALIGNED STATES, INCLUDING EH IRAQI NEW AGENCY, NOW COOPERATE. IRAQ GENERALLY WELCOMES PROGRAMS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE VARIOUS SUB-SECTORS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

8. MEMBERSHIP ISSUES--THE APPLICATION BY ROMANIA, PROTUGAL, THE PHILIPPINES AND TURKEY FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WILL PROVIDE SHARP DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE PRESENT NAM MEMBERS. WHILE THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD WELCOME THE ADMISSION OF ROMANIA; INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN FEAR THE PRECEDENT THAT THE ADMISSION OF A MEMBER OF A MILITARY ALLIANCE COULD SET FOR PAKISTAN. IRAQ HOPES TO AVOID OFFENDING ANY OF THE PARTIES TO THESE DISPUTES.
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9. COMMENT: IRAQ IS REACHING FOR A LEADERSHIP POSITION IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. A DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS, A DESIRE TO SHOW DAYLIGHT BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE SOVIET UNION, AND A THIRST FOR THE PRESTIGE THAT COULD ACCRUE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY AND CIVILIAN SECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF A MORE PROMINENT NON-ALIGNED ROLE, ALL SUGGEST THAT THE IRAQIS WILL INCREASINGLY FOCUS ON NON-ALIGNED MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS. UNLESS THE GOI DETERMINES THAT THE REQUIRED COMPROMISES ARE UNREWARDING, IRAQI AMBITIONS MAY BRING ABOUT A MODERATION AND SENSITIVITY TO OTHERS' CONCERNS IN MULTILATERAL FORA. THIS IN TURN COULD RESULT IN SOME MODERATION IN IRAQ'S PAST EXTREME ANTI-AMERICAN POSITIONS.
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